



Tour Report



Oman - Arabian Birding Odyssey
28th November – 8th December 2022

www.oriolobirding.com

Tuesday 29th November 2022 – Muscat and environs

Warm and sunny all day, light easterly winds. 29C

The first full day of our inaugural tour of Oman! The previous day consisted of air travel from London Heathrow to Abu Dhabi Airport, followed by a short transfer to Muscat in the north of Oman, moving smoothly through immigration and baggage collection, followed by collection of our two 4x4 vehicles. This all happened after dark and so featured no birds, so the tour officially started today! And what a cracker of a day it was. This was the first birding trip to Oman for all in the group, except for our fantastic experienced guide Carles Oliver, who joined us on his 6th Oman tour!

We started the day with a 07:30 breakfast to ease us in gently, following which our first birds came in the form of groups of **Indian Silverbills**, **Common Mynas** and a couple of **Namaqua Doves** in the urban environment of our hotel car park! We loaded into our vehicles and were soon visiting our first local birding sites and getting a taste for Omani birds. Our stop was at the Al Ansab lagoons and water treatment works on the outskirts of Muscat. This little wetland was a hive of activity, and gave us sightings of many local species. **GREY FRANCOLINS** showed well for us, while **Pale Crag Martins** were hawkking above our heads and giving great views. A single **GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE** flew low over the site, and proceeded to circle the area during our whole stay, while an immature **BONELLI'S EAGLE** was also noted. An **INDIAN ROLLER** perched up on lamp posts in the distance, while a single **ISABELLINE SHRIKE** also perched prominently in the acacia scrub. **White-eared Bulbuls** were common here, as were **Delicate Prinias** and **Purple Sunbirds** which, while not in their resplendent summer plumage, were still enjoyable to observe. A couple of vocal **CLAMOROUS REED WARBLERS** were a delight to see really well as they fed prominently in trees here. The first lagoon held 3 **Whiskered Terns**, while waders included **Red-wattled Lapwings**, **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Temminck's** and **Little Stints**, **Spotted Redshanks**, **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Ringed** and **Kentish Plover** and **Common Snipe**. A couple of **CITRINE WAGTAILS** were also present around the lagoons; really smart birds with lots of lemon coloration still across face and breast. Wildfowl included **Teal**, **Mallard** and **Shoveler**, while **Greater Flamingos** were also present here, plus **Spectacled Bulbul** as we were leaving. After birding the accessible areas, we headed back to the vehicles and made our way to our next site; the muscat rivermouth.



Grey Francolins



Citrine Wagtail, Clamorous Reed Warbler and Great Spotted Eagle

A short stop here was similarly productive, with lots of birds present. Along with more of the waders mentioned above, other species included both **LESSER** and **GREATER SAND PLOVERS** in winter plumage, several **Turnstones**, **Common Sandpipers**, **Ruff**, **Whimbrel** and **Black-tailed Godwits**. An **Osprey** was perched close by. **Western Reef Heron** and **Grey Heron** were also noted, along with **Glossy ibis**, while passerine interest was provided by a **Desert Wheatear** feeding on the other side of the water, and an **Isabelline Shrike** also present distantly. We headed round next to the seaward side of the rivermouth, where roosting gulls and terns and activity over the sea provided entertainment. A group of **Slender-billed Gulls** were with **Black-headed Gulls**, mixed with **Greater Crested** and **Sandwich Terns**. **Sooty Gulls** were abundant, and giving close fly-bys, while a party of 6 superb **PALLAS'S GULLS** flying along the beach were a highlight. A distant flock of over 40 **RED-NECKED PHALAROPES** on the sea were a treat, while Sanderlings were seen on the beach and **Oystercatchers** and **Bar-tailed Godwits** on the mud. A trio of resplendent **ARABIAN GREEN BEE-EATERS** a delight to watch as they hawked for insects from the riverbank. With lunch approaching, we had time for a short stop at another small marsh opposite the airport, which proved extremely productive with the discovery of a **CASPIAN PLOVER**; a fairly rare visitor in Oman, and a first for many in the group, including Carles! **Greater** and **Lesser Sand Plovers**, **Striated** and **Squacco Herons** and assorted waders were also present on this unassuming marsh, while from the other bank another highlight came in the form of an adult and juvenile **BLACK-WINGED KITE**; the fresh juvenile suggestive of local breeding; the first documented record for Oman! More **Indian Rollers** were also enjoyed, along with better views of the **Caspian Plover** and a **Delicate Prinia**, before we headed back to the hotel for lunch.



Sooty Gull and Great Crested Tern



Arabian Green Bee-eater, Caspian Plover and juvenile Black-winged Kite

After lunch we went to the marshes and coastline of Al Qurum, at the eastern end of Muscat, where we enjoyed another fantastic array of species. **Arabian Little Green Bee-eaters** again showed really well, while a juvenile **Bonelli's Eagle** gave a fantastic flyby as we arrived. **Pale Crag Martins** and several **Red-vented Bulbuls** amongst the abundant **White-eared Bulbuls** were all ever present. **Purple Sunbirds** and **Delicate Prinias** were again common, along with abundant **Laughing** and **Eurasian Collared Doves**. A party of showy **Grey Francolins** were watched and photographed at close range. Water was a bit limited at this site compared with previous years, but **Northern Pintail** was noted along with **Shoveler**, **Mallard** and **Teal** were on the open water, while the areas of, muddy margin hosted **Temminck's** and **Little Stints** and, most interesting of all, 3 species of snipe (**Jack**, **Common** and a superb **PINTAIL SNIPE**). A brief **Little Bittern** and even more skulking **Bluethroat** were also noted. Leaving, we headed round to the coastal side of the area, where a roost of gulls was building on the

beach below, allowing us prolonged views of a couple of **PALLAS'S GULLS**, a single **Caspian Gull** and many **Heuglin's** and **Steppe Gulls**, along with a surprise sighting of an immature **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**; we had just found a first for Oman! The beach also hosted a flock of fantastic **Pacific Golden Plovers**, while **Common Terns** were also foraging along the coast. As would be a theme during the majority of this trip, the early setting sun (it was dark by 18:45) meant that some pre-dinner owling was on the cards. As the sun set, we were well placed to head round to the Qurum Natural Park, where we would round off the day in superb fashion with a **PALLID SCOPS OWL** expertly located by Carles, despite a lack of calls from the bird. After filling our boots, we headed out and were soon back at our hotel for dinner.



Grey Francolin, White-cheeked Bulbul and Indian Silverbill



Pin-tailed Snipe, Pallas's Gull and Great Black-backed Gull



Pallid Scops Owl

Wednesday 30th November 2022 – Nizwa, Al Beed Farms and Salalah

Warm and sunny all day, light easterly winds. 31C

Our second full day in Oman saw us leave our hotel in Muscat after an early breakfast, and make our way into the Al Harar mountains and through to the region around Nizwa. The contrast of habitats from the wetlands of Muscat to the rugged desert and mountain scenes as we travelled south was stark! We drove around an hour before stopping in our first birding area; an area of rocky desert sparsely vegetated with acacias, neighboured by a well vegetated wadi just north of Nizwa. A couple of **INDIAN ROLLERS** were noted on the journey, as well as a **Common Kestrel**, while on getting onto dirt tracks we soon located our first **HUME'S WHEATEAR** of the trip; a superb black and white wheatear, with the Arabian population restricted to this northern part of Oman. This was one of 3 birds which we saw here, all of which were very obliging. A little further on we paused by some walled goat pens and gardens, where we enjoyed excellent views of a single **PERSIAN WHEATEAR** (also known as Red-tailed Wheatear) which sat up nicely on nearby walls. The bird was joined by another really interesting species in the form of a **STRIOLATED BUNTING**; both at one point perched side by side on the same wall! The bunting sat up briefly on an acacia before slinking away, leaving us with the **Persian Wheatear** and, soon after, a smart **Blue Rock Thrush**. Driving further on, we walked a loop around the stony desert, searching acacias and stands of trees lining a dry river bed in search of passerines. This search yielded some really nice birds, including cracking views of vocal **PLAIN LEAF WARBLER** as it fed from tree to tree. Also through this area we found many **Lesser Whitethroats**, all giving the strident rattling call which sounded like that of *halimodendri*. A couple of **EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLERS** were also seen, though these stayed elusive, as did a single **COMMON WHITETHROAT** of the subspecies *icterops*. Alongside these were small numbers of **White-eared** and **White Spectacled Bulbuls**. Further on we made our way into the beautiful well vegetated wadi, with high rocky mountains on both sides. The wadi hosted a stunning male **EASTERN BLACK REDSTART** (subspecies *phoenicuroides*) which shared its rocky perches with another **HUME'S WHEATEAR**. An

INDIAN ROLLER showed well here also, delighting us with its aerial acrobatics, while other **PLAIN LEAF WARBLERS** were seen. Leaving the wadi and walking areas of open rocky plain we managed to eventually locate 4 **DESERT LARKS**, though as is often the case in the desert, it was otherwise slim pickings.



Hume's Wheatear, Red-tailed Wheatear and Eastern Black Redstart

We had a fantastic lunch at our hotel in Nizwa, where we enjoyed our first real taste of the butterflies of the area in the gardens here (**Desert Orange-tip**, the spectacular **Lemon Butterfly**, and the strangely named hesperid **One-pip Policeman!**) and good views of **Delicate Prinia** in the car park. After lunch we headed out to another beautiful wadi site, where we spent the afternoon and stayed until dark in search of the mythical Omani Owl. Our afternoon birding yielded some nice sightings, including more **PLAIN LEAF WARBLERS** and **Lesser Whitethroats**. **Purple Sunbirds** were also present, while at the bigger end of the spectrum a pair of **LAPPET-FACED VULTURES** cruised high overhead which, while distant, allowed prolonged scope views. A couple of **Grey Wagtails** flew over calling; something more familiar! As light faded, we were entertained by a roost of 11 **EGYPTIAN VULTURES** high on the cliffs, joined for a while by 2 **BROWN-NECKED RAVENS**. As the light fell, we positioned ourselves to listen for Omani Owl; an extremely elusive species only discovered in 2013 in this high sided wadi; an amazing ornithological event! Unfortunately our attempt to 'rediscover' it proved fruitless, with no calls heard at all, though a consolation was in the form of a calling **PALLID SCOPS OWL** here. With sunset occurring so early, we were back at the hotel by 19:30, in time for a quick change before a delicious buffet dinner.



Plain Leaf Warbler

Thursday 1st December 2022 – Road trip! Journey to Salala, across the Empty Quarter

Warm and sunny all day, light winds. 28C

A rather epic day of travel day, in which we traversed the majority of Oman, from Nizwa in the north to Salalah in the south, covering over 800 km in a day! It may sound like a lot, but interspersed with several birding stops along the way, and some excellent birds with it, and the journey was covered quite comfortably.

Leaving our fantastic hotel in Nizwa early after a buffet breakfast, we set off on our journey, stopping quite close by in an area of acacia savana bordering a dry riverbed, where we were soon greeted by a party of 11 **ARABIAN BABBLERS**. This family group were noisy and mobile, giving fantastic views. Our first **DESERT WHEATEAR** of the day was seen here, while a highlight for many was a female

MENETRIE'S WARBLER which emerged and showed well amongst the thorny vegetation, calling frequently. There were also **Lesser Whitethroats** here, while **Brown-necked Ravens** were noted regularly by the road. We then pushed onwards, leaving the plateau of the northern region of Oman and dropping down onto the desert expanse known as the 'empty quarter'. This epically barren landscape would accompany us for the majority of our day, with subtle changes in desert from stony substrates to beautiful golden dunes. Our breif stops for petrol and food yielded few birds on the whole, bar a male **DESERT WHEATEAR** and further **Brown-necked Ravens**, though our chosen picnic stop did give some nice sightings. A well vegetated area surrounding a small motel held migrants, with **WOOD WARBLER** noted alongside several **EASTERN BLACK REDSTARTS**, 2 **Common Chiffchaffs** and a lovely pallid **ISABELLINE SHRIKE**.



Arabian Babbler and Menetrie's Warbler

We pushed on further south and made a final stop around 1 hour 30 from Salalah, at an area of irrigated pivot fields known as Al Beed Farms. This was a superb stop, with many birds on offer. Several flocks of **CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** were noted as they flew between feeding areas, though

we unfortunately were unable to pin any down on the ground. Wheatears were well represented, with superb **PIED WHEATEAR** and several **ISABELLINE** and **Desert Wheatears** present. **Tawny Pipit** was noted, as were our first **Great Grey Shrikes** of the trip; birds of the *aucheri* subspecies. The raptors were represented by at least 4 superb **MONTAGU'S HARRIERS** and a single female-type **PALLID HARRIER** along side several **Marsh Harriers** and many **Common Kestrels**. A fantastic **BLACK-WINGED KITE** was a great spot just before we departed, completing our journey and arriving just after dark at our hotel in Salalah, where we enjoyed another fantastic evening meal of mixed arabian, indian and oriental cuisine.



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Pied Wheatear



Montagu's Harrier

Friday 2nd December 2022 – Salalah area

Warm and sunny all day, light winds. 32C

Tristram's Starlings were our first birds as we departed the hotel on our first full day in the Salalah area; a fantastic region where we would spend the next 4 days. After breakfast we travelled the short distance to the wooded valley of Ain Hamran; an incredible site, where the new birds kept on coming, it was almost overwhelming at times! We paused first in the open plains below the mountain ridge, where we enjoyed sightings of **EASTERN IMPERIAL EAGLE**, **BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW LARKS** with young in the nest, **Tawny Pipits** feeding young, singing **Greater Hoopoe Larks**, a **Greater Short-toed Lark**, many **Isabelline Wheatears** and a light passage of **Barn Swallows**. We then moved up into the mountain valley, where scattered forest bordering a small stream provided many good birds. **CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTINGS** were very common, as were **AFRICAN PARADISE FLYCATCHERS**, **ABYSSINIAN WHITE-EYES**, **RUPPELL'S WEAVERS**, **GRACEFUL PRINIA**, **PALESTINE** and **SHINING SUNBIRDS** and **AFRICAN SILVERBILLS**. A single **NAMAQUA DOVE** showed well, while both an **ARABIAN WARBLER** and **UPCHER'S WARBLER** gave themselves up well, the former singing and the latter performing its diagnostic 'tail-swinging'. Both **RED-TAILED** (formerly **Turkestan**) and **ISABELLINE SHRIKES** allowed for nice comparisons, while characterful **Blackstarts** were entertaining to observe. Final highlights here came in the form of a couple of scarce migrants; a **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** and a canopy-hugging **BLYTH'S REED WARBLER**, while **Lesser Whitethroats** were also noted. By now it was time to head back for lunch, which was unfortunate as the birding was excellent and we also hadn't been able to locate some species special to this area, namely Arabian Grosbeak and Bruce's Green Pigeon. However we would be able to return later in the week. We noted a single **CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD** over the highway on our way back, before heading in for a delicious buffet lunch.



Arabian Warbler, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and Red-tailed Shrike



African Paradise Flycatcher

After lunch we visited the rivermouth wetland at Dahariz, a short hop from our hotel. This proved to be an amazing site with lots of activity. Three **GREATER SPOTTED EAGLES** were noted, including ridiculous views of one predating a Slender-billed Gull within 30 meters of where we were stood! **INDIAN POND HERONS** noted amongst the very similar **Squacco Herons**, identified by their less buff colouration and distinct dark loreal line. Egrets were well represented, with **Cattle**, **INTERMEDIATE** and **Great Egrets** posing alongside each other, while several Western Reef Egrets were present alongside well over 100 **Glossy Ibis**. Gulls were represented by **Sooty** and **Helguin's Gulls** while **Caspian** and **Great Crested Terns** roosted on the islands. Very little wildfowl was present, but **Garganey**, **Little Grebes**, **RED-KNOBBED** and **Common Coots** and **Moorhens** were present, while waders included **Common** and **Spotted Redshanks**, **TEMMINCK'S STINT**, **Ruff** and **RED-NECKED PHALAROPES**, one of which was on the lagoon, while over 300 more were on the sea behind us. In addition we got lucky with the sea, noting a party of **SOCOTRA CORMORANTS** passing fairly close by. The site was a delight, and we could have easily spend all afternoon here!



Socotra Cormorants



Great Spotted Eagle and Indian Pond Heron

Dragging ourselves away from the Dahariz rivermouth, we drove to the Darbat Waterfalls around 30 minutes away. A roadside stop on the way was really productive, with fantastic views of overhead **EASTERN IMPERIAL EAGLE**, **SHORT-TOED SNAKE EAGLE** and a **YELLOW-BILLED KITE** (identified initially as Black-eared Kite, but later reidentified from the photos), along with a fly over of 27 **ABDIM'S STORKS**! Arriving in Darbat, we were greeted by a fantastically scenic place, with high hills bordering a river valley with impressive waterfalls. Being a Friday, there were a surprising number of tourists here, but we still managed to enjoy some fantastic birds. Here we saw **BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATERS** cruising along the ridgelines overhead along with **BONELLI'S**, **EASTERN IMPERIAL** and **STEPPE EAGLES**, **CRESTED HONEY BUZZARDS**, **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWKS** and **FAN-TAILED RAVENS**. A **White Stork** was present along the riverbank, while a single **PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA** was another treat. **Purple Heron** came to roost here along with Little and Great Egrets, while Squacco Herons were foraging along the same river.



Abdim's Stork and Pheasant-tailed Jacana

Our visit here wasn't only for the daytime activity, as the possibility of owls in the area held us until nightfall. As it got dark, we soon began to hear an abundance of **ARABIAN SCOP'S OWLS** calling from all sides. It took a little while, but we eventually saw one really well. Great to see this Arabian Peninsula endemic so well. We couldn't locate any Arabian Eagle Owls here tonight, but we did find **Barn Owl**, a couple of **Little Owls** and a noisy fly-over **Black-crowned Night Heron**, before we called it a night at around 8pm. We headed back and straight in for another delicious buffet dinner, before heading to bed.



Arabian Scops Owl

Saturday 3rd December 2022 – Mirbat pelagic and Jabal Samhan

Warm and sunny all day, light winds. 32C

After early breakfast we travelled east towards Mirbat, where we would spend the morning at sea. On the way we stopped by the roadside as an incredible **Eastern Imperial Eagle** was perched on a telegraph pole. Another adult was watching us from a neighboring hillside, and then we noticed 3 juveniles on the ground ahead of us; Amazing! The views were spectacular, with the birds flying by at close range. We pushed onwards to Mirbat where we met our skipper Hatem, and were soon heading slowly out to sea. The waters of the Arabian sea host some interesting species, with the potential for Jooanin's Petrel being one of the main draws. However unfortunately, despite 4 hours on the water, we were unable to locate any of this species (in common with other birders who conducted the pelaging a few days later). That's not to say that we didn't have a productive pelagic however! We were accompanied the entire time by many **Sooty** and **Helguin's Gulls**, while several **Loggerhead Turtles** were seen offshore, plus one in the harbour. Our procelariform entertainment came in the form of

about 10 different **PERSIAN SHEARWATERS** which have excellent views as they came to investigate the boat; a real regional speciality. A couple of **MASKED BOOBIES** were noted distantly, while **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in constant attendance. **Common, Lesser** and **Greater Crested Terns** were seen in small numbers, while arguably the highlight of the trip was the vast numbers of **Common Dolphins** which we encountered, the groups often investigating the boat, and their acrobatics providing much entertainment! A single **BROWN NODDY** on our way back in to harbour was an unexpected bonus, while **Black-crowned Night Herons**, **STRIOLATED HERON** and **Western Reef Heron** were noted amongst the harbour breakwater.



Eastern Imperial Eagle and Persian Shearwater



Persian Shearwater and Brown Noddy

Finishing our trip, we disembarked, thanking Hatem for his help, before heading to get some fuel, before making our way onto the Dhofar plateau, stopping for lunch near the Atair Sink Hole. **YEMEN SERIN** was our main target in this area, and it didn't take long to find a flock in a rather inauspicious area surrounding a café and goat pens! Regardless of the underwhelming surroundings and the bird being about as drab as a finch can be, this Arabian Peninsular endemic was still a great species for our group to see. The area also hosted **White Stork**, **Siberian Chiffchaff**, **Blackstart**, **Abyssinian White-eyes** and an abundance of **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**. From here we then drove to the Jabal Samhan plateau, stopping for some good birds on the way. Our first **ARABIAN WHEATEARS** of the area were seen, and proved quite common, while we also found a few coveys of **ARABIAN PARTRIDGES** and a fleeting **ARABIAN WARBLER**. At the viewpoints overlooking the spectacular slopes below us, we began our search for raptors. **Booted Eagle**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** and **Verreaux's Eagle** were noted, though the latter was sadly just missed by all but Carles as the mist rolled in and obscured the whole hillside. Also further **ARABIAN WHEATEARS** here, including the only female we saw, while the scenery was absolutely spectacular. We returned to the Atair Sink hole area, noting 8 **Tree Pipits** on the way. Back at the site we saw **YEMEN SERIN** again, and also several **ARABIAN PARTRIDGE**, **Palestine Sunbird**, **Bonelli's Eagle**, **ARABIAN ROCK DOVE**, **LONG-BILLED PIPIT**, **Grey Wagtail** and **African Paradise Flycatcher**. We stayed until dusk, enjoying the afternoon chorus of birds here, before hitting the road and heading back to Salalah.



Arabian Wheatear and Yemen Serin

Sunday 4th December 2022 – Mudayy, Al Balid and Ayn Tobruk

Cold to start, then warm and sunny as usual! 29C

Today began with our earliest start of the trip so far, with a 5am departure from the hotel which saw us on our way to a small oasis in the desert SE of Salalah, at Mudayy. We drove in darkness past waddis, desert plains and hills, before reaching our destination 2 hours later. Here we went straight in search for one of our main targets of the Oman trip; the fascinating **GREY HYPOCOLIUS**. A nomadic bird of desert oasis, this species only winters in extremely small numbers in Oman. The birds habits at this location are broadly well known, but that didn't make it easy to find, with our first hour or so of searching yielding a blank, though the areas avifauna was by no means lacking! **NILE VALLEY SUNBIRDS** were present here in good numbers, with this being the only area in Oman where we were likely to find them. A male **HOODED WHEATEAR** was a pleasant surprise here, and showy to boot, while both **CROWNED SANDGROUSE** and **SAND PARTRIDGE** were seen in the area; the latter on the deck but the former only in flight. **Blackstarts**, 2 **Desert Larks** and **Isabelline Shrike** were all also located while searching for Hypocolius. Things weren't looking too optimistic at this stage, but then Carles pulled the rabbit out of his hat, picking up 4 birds flying in distantly and high from the east, before dropping into the palm trees at the oasis! The search wasn't over however, as it took a good 20 minutes before we finally located a couple of the birds, feeding deep within a hanging shrub on a rock

face. However once we had located these we were able to get views of a female and brief views of a male **GREY HYPOCOLIUS**; really cool birds, and a sense of victory in finding them after such an unexpectedly difficult search. By now it was time to head back to the hotel for lunch followed by a short siesta, before heading out to bird for the rest of the afternoon.



Grey Hypocolius and Hooded Wheatear



Nile Valley Sunbird and Blackstart

After leaving the hotel we headed to a small rivermouth site nearby. **Squacco Heron**, **Purple Heron** and an **Isabelline Shrike** here. Then on through the coconut and banana groves which surround the Al Balid archaeological museum. Raptors were in the air; fantastic views of **CRESTED HONEY BUZZARDS**, **Osprey** and **STEPPE, GREATER SPOTTED** and **EASTERN IMPERIAL EAGLES** were had, with all up in the air together, flying pretty low and giving mind-blowing views! Entering the museum area, we enjoyed fabulous views of **SPOTTED THICK-KNEES** roosting in the shade of ornamental shrubs, very much unbothered by our presence. The site was of interest for a variety of other bit, particularly along the riverside, with several **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** foraging from bankside bushes, while **Whiskered Terns** numbered over 100, with a couple of **White-winged Terns** amongst them. **Greenshanks** also numbered over 100, while **Clamorous Reed Warbler** was heard singing. A return to the Al Dahariz

wetland was next on the cards, and the site again hosted fantastic numbers of birds. Of interest here were a couple of **Little Terns** (at the time thought to be Saunder's Tern, though further reading seems to suggest that the identification criteria used in current guides is incorrect, and that in reality Saunder's Tern, contrary to current maps, does not occur in Oman in the winter), **Caspian** and **Greater Crested Terns**, **GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE**, **Osprey**, many **Red-necked Phalaropes** on the sea, **Temminck's Stint**, **Little Stint**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Ruff** and **Squacco Herons**. We later finish the day with an evening session nearby at Ayn Tobruk. There was the possibility of picking up Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse here, coming to drink at camel troughs at last knockings. While waiting as the sun dropped we did note a fly-by **LONG-BILLED PIPIT**, a **Grey Wagtail** and 2 **Namaqua doves** by the troughs, but no sandgrouse came to drink. However our other reason for lingering here until nightfall didn't dissappoint. As night fell we heard the distant call of an **ARABIAN EAGLE OWL**; unexpected as we were intending to take a short drive up the road to try and find this species! The calls got closer and eventually a bird turned up on nearby telegraph poles, soon joined by a second! Amazing birds. A calling **ARABIAN SCOPS OWL** added to the ambience, before it was time to leave.



Spotted Thick-knee and Crested Honey Buzzard



Namaqua Doves and Arabian Eagle Owls

Monday 5th December 2022 – Ain Hamran, Raysut and Mughsayl

Warm and sunny, light breeze. 29C

Not easy to choose, but today has to be considered our best day in Oman so far. So many highlights from start to finish. We began with a morning return to Ain Hamran, in search for a couple of target species which we had missed last week. Working through the lower valley and acacia scrub, we were able to make slightly faster progress today, on account of having seen many of the commoner species before, such as **Blackstarts**, **Shining** and **Palestine Sunbirds**, **African Silverbills** and **African Paradise Flycatchers** which abounded from the surrounding area. A male **BROWN SHRIKE** was a nice bonus, being a pretty scarce bird here, while **UPCHER'S WARBLER** (probably the same from the other day), **BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA** and a brief flyby **SHIKRA** were added bonuses. However the star of the show by far, and the species which we were only likely to see at this location, was a stunning male **ARABIAN GOLDEN-WINGED GROSBEAK**. It was Carles who picked it up, hearing a distant call towards the drinking pools, before spotting the bird as it flew towards us. Good views were had in the

surrounding acacias before it flew up the valley, perching briefly before being lost. Another highlight here was the discovery of a pair of **BRUCE'S GREEN PIGEONS**. These really smart birds were foraging in the top of a large fig tree, and also gave good views. It was now time to head off, making our way to a nearby wetland site before lunch



Brown Shrike, Arabian Grosbeak and Bruce's Green Pigeon

We headed to Raysut on the outside of Salalah where some fabulous wetland areas yielded **AFRICAN OPENBILL** (a long-staying 1st for Oman), at least 15 **TEREK'S SANDPIPERS**, **Lesser Sand Plovers**, **Grey Plovers**, **Whimbrels**, **Oystercatchers**, 12 **Ospreys**, **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Caspian Terns**, a **Persian Shearwater** on the water and several **Socotra Cormorants** foraging and roosting on the water's edge. From here we headed to lunch.



African Openbill and Terek's Sandpiper

After lunch we took in the delights of the sewage works and refuse tip of Raysut! The tip hosted many **ABDIM'S STORKS** and **White Storks**, while **STEPPE EAGLES** soared overhead. At the sewage works we noted nearly 300 **Abdim's Storks** and good numbers of **White Storks**, plus **AFRICAN SACRED IBIS**, **Red-wattled** and **Spur-winged Plovers** (plus a hybrid between the two), **Eurasian Teal** and several **Whiskered Terns**. After finishing here we moved to the coast, taking the incredibly scenic coastal route to the west. Arriving at Mughsayl wetland and the sea beyond we were able to observe several groups of **SOCOTRA CORMORANTS**, totalling around 40 individuals, while **Brown Boobies** and various terns foraged offshore. At the Mughsayl wetland we enjoyed good views of **Garganey**, **Pintail**, **Shovelers**, **Flamingos**, **Whiskered**, **Lesser Crested**, **Greater Crested** and **Sandwich Terns**, **Greater Sand Plovers**, **Whimbrels**, **Curlews**, 14 **Red-knobbed Coots**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** and **Black-crowned Night Herons**. Also here were **Desert** and **Isabelline wheatears**, while nearby we enjoyed prolonged views of 2 **ARABIAN GREEN BEE-EATERS** sharing their perches with a single **LONG-BILLED PIPIT**, a single **Arabian Wheatear** and a couple of **Little Ringed Plovers** at the water's edge.



Long-billed Pipit and Spur-winged Plover, Red-wattled Lapwing and hybrid offspring

Then came the star of the days grand finale. As with many of our days this tour, we set ourselves up to await nightfall, enjoying the sunset and subtle change in ambience as the temperatures dropped and soundscape went from birdsong to cricket calls as it got darker. We waited maybe 40 minutes with nothing happening, watching the surrounding rockfaces for movement. Then we heard the hooting we had been waiting for; a **DESERT OWL** to our left! Waiting a little longer, and the bird got closer, allowing amazing views as it eventually landed on the rocks behind us! What an experience. It then flew to the other side of the valley, where we left it and headed back to Salalan, spotting a couple

of **Arabian Red Foxes** on our way out of the valley. We were back for dinner at around 20:30ish, and enjoyed yet another nice buffet.



Desert Owl

Tuesday 6th December 2022 – Travel from Salalah to Duqm

Warm and sunny, moderate winds, minor dust storms. 31C

Today we departed our hotel in Salalah, with our final destination for today being the city of Duqm on the east coast of Oman. We departed at around 07:15, so as to give us time for some birding on route. Our first stop was an area of irrigated crop fields, where we had **SINGING BUSH LARKS**, male **PALLID HARRIER**, **Western Yellow Wagtails**, a single **Whinchat**, a probable Oriental Skylark (probably the default species here, though this bird was too distant to identify with concrete features), flocks of Ruff, **Desert Wheatear** and **Namaqua Dove**. From here we moved to the Khawr Awqad rivermouth on the western part of the Salalah coastline, where we enjoyed the impressive sight of a **CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD** being mobbed by a **LANNER FALCON**, 2 **COTTON PYGMY GEESE**, a party of **SCALY-BREASTED MUNIAS**, male and female **Shining Sunbirds**, a juvenile **Little Bittern**, **Clamorous Reed Warbler**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Greenshank**, **Redshank**, 2 **Shoveler** and **Marsh Harrier**; a great little spot! Finishing here, it was time to hit the road with our journey taking us north of Salalah, into the empty quarter towards Haima. We stopped briefly for an unsuccessful hunt for Asian Desert Warbler in an area of desert with low scattered scrub. **Steppe Eagle**, **Blackstart**, **Desert Wheatear** and **Aucheri Great Grey Shrike** were compensation here though. Another brief stop yielded a flock of around 20 **BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW LARKS** foraging along the edge of an empty highway.

We then continued another hour up the road before stopping at the Beed Farms, where we noted a male **Pallid Harrier**, **Desert** and **Isabelline Wheatears**, 20 **Namaqua Doves**, a female **SIBERIAN STONECHAT**, 3 **Montague's Harriers** and a nice flock of **Western Yellow Wagtails**. Finishing up, we continued our journey across to Duqm, driving though to nightfall with a couple of comfort stops along the way. The group in the front vehicle were very fortunate to see a **Honey Badger** on the journey! We arrived at our hotel at around 19:15, where we checked in and headed in for dinner.



Desert Wheatear

Wednesday 7th December 2022 – Duqm and Nizwa

Warm and sunny, 31C

Our last full day in Oman allowed us to explore the incredible and vast intertidal mudflats to the north of Duqm, lying in the shelter of Masirah Island. Before that a quick look around the hotel car park yielded a smart and vocal **Red-breasted Flycatcher**; a great way to start the day! Some short stops in sandy desert areas on the way provided us with great views of **ASIAN DESERT WARBLER**, **Desert Wheatear** and **Aucheri Great Grey Shrike**. A small patch of irrigated grass by some traffic lights leaving Duqm held **Pacific Golden Plovers** and a male **Black-headed Wagtail**! Then onto the mudflats, where we were confronted with an amazing spectacle of masses of waders. We noted 21 species in all, including both **Sand Plovers**, **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Terek's Sandpipers** and, the star of the show here, at least 50 **CRAB PLOVERS**! Unfortunately they never came close, keeping to roost banks out in the bay rather than coming to feed in pools left by the receding tide. Groups of **Spoonbills** flew overhead, while the nearby Shannah port hosted a ridiculous number of **Sooty**, **Steppe** and **Heuglin's** Gulls and a few **Gull-billed Terns** but little else. We then headed to the smaller fishing harbour of Filim, where the mangroves hosted **Striated Heron**, **Clamorous Reed Warbler** and **Common Kingfisher**. The nearby mudflats hosted at least 10 **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPERS** as well as **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Terek's Sandpipers**, more distant **CRAB PLOVERS** and **Spotted Redshank**. Leaving here, it was time to make our transfer back to Muscat. After completing the majority of the journey north, we stopped on route back in Nizwa, where a short vigil in the wadi which we explored earlier in the trip was in the hope of possibly locating an Omani Owl. It wasn't to be unfortunately, though 2 **Little Owls** were a small compensation, as was simply being here in this impressive site with its high cliffs lit by a full moon. We had dinner in the Golden Tulip hotel before completing our journey back to Muscat and our hotel for the night.



Red-breasted Flycatcher, Pacific Golden Plover and Asian Desert Warbler



Crab Plover

Thursday 8th December 2022 – Flights home

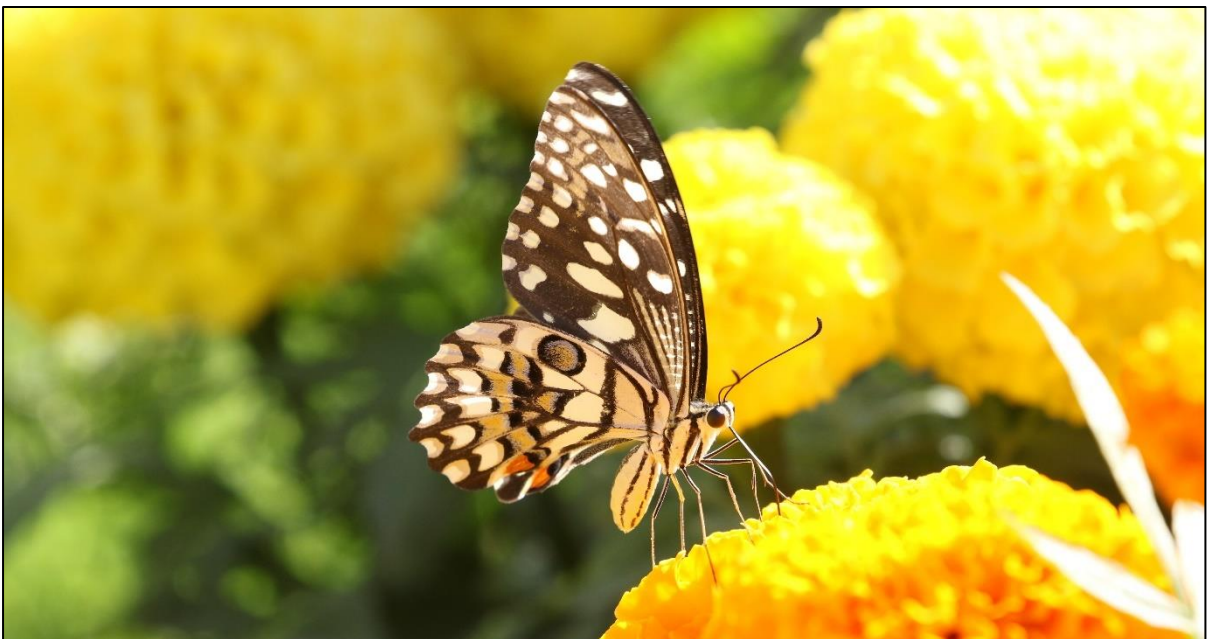
An early morning flight saw the group away to Muscat airport after a very short overnight at the hotel. Transfer to Abu Dhabi where, after a long wait, the group then got their flights back to London.



Scenes from Oman; Gull flocks at Shannah port, Bar-tailed godwit flocks at Duqm and a Desert Wheatear in typical desert habitat.



Oman scenes; a traditional Dhow fishing vessel, coastal mountains at Mughsayl and a wadi at Niswa







Butterflies of Oman; Pearl Emperor (*Charaxes varanes*), Blue Pansy (*Junonia orithya*), African Migrant (*Catopsilia florella*), Lemon Butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*), Little Tiger Blue (*Tarucus balkanicus*), African Caper White (*Belenios aurota*), Desert Orange-tip (*Colotis liagore*), Spotted Joker (*Byblia ilithyia*), Zebra White (*Pinacopteryx eriphia*) and One-pip Policeman (*Coeliades anchises*).





Dragonflies of Oman; Violet Dropwing (*Thritemis annulata*), Slender Skimmer (*Orthetrum sabina*), Broad Scarlet (*Crocothemis erythraea*), Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*), Common Blacktail (*Nesiothemis farinosa*) and Epaulet Skimmer (*Orthetrum chrysostigma*).



Other wildlife; Common Agama (*Agama agama*), Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and Dromedary (*Camelus dromedarius*)

ORIOLE BIRDING
OMAN AUTUMN TOUR
28TH NOVEMBER - 7TH DECEMBER 2022

Species order, names and taxonomy follows Clements Bird Taxonomy 2021

[illegible]

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	Laughing Dove (<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
18	Namaqua Dove (<i>Oena capensis</i>)		x		x	1	1	2		20	
19	Bruce's Green Pigeon (<i>Treron waalia</i>)								2		
	Gruiformes - Cranes and allies										
20	Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)		x			x		x		x	
21	Eurasian Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)					x		x	x	1	
2	Red-knobbed Coot (<i>Fulica cristata</i>)					4		x	14		
	Podicipediformes - Grebes										
23	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)		x			x		x	x	x	
	Phoenicopteriformes - Flamingoes										
24	Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)		x			x		1	x		x
	Charadriiformes - Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, Auks										
25	Spotted Thick-knee (<i>Burhinus capensis</i>)							x			
26	Eurasian Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)		2						x		x
27	Crab Plover (<i>Dromas ardeola</i>)										x
28	Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)		x			x		x	x	x	
29	Pheasant-tailed Jacana (<i>Hydrophaisanus chirurgus</i>)					1			1		
30	Red-wattled Lapwing (<i>Vanellus indicus</i>)		x						x		
31	White-tailed Lapwing (<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>)										
32	Pacific Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>)		30								x
33	Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)								x		x
34	Common Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)		x						x		
35	Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>)								2		x
36	Kentish Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)		x								x
37	Lesser Sand Plover (<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>)		x						x		x
38	Greater Sand Plover (<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>)		x						x		
39	Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)		x								
40	Pin-tailed Snipe (<i>Gallinago stenura</i>)		1								

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41	Jack Snipe (<i>Lymnocryptes minimus</i>)		1								
42	Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)		x			x		x			x
43	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)		2								x
44	Eurasian Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)		4						x		x
45	Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)		1			2			2		x
46	Spotted Redshank (<i>Tringa erythropus</i>)		x			x		1			x
47	Common Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)		x			x		x	x	1	x
48	Marsh Sandpiper (<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>)		x								1
49	Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)		x			x		100	x	1	x
50	Green Sandpiper (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>)		1			x			1	1	
51	Wood Sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)		1							1	
52	Terek's Sandpiper (<i>Xenus cinereus</i>)								x		x
53	Common Sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)		x			x		x	x		x
54	Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)		x						x		x
55	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)		x								
56	Little Stint (<i>Calidris minuta</i>)		x					1	x		x
57	Temminck's Stint (<i>Calidris temminckii</i>)		10			1		1			
58	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)		x					1	x		x
59	Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)										x
60	Broad-billed Sandpiper (<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>)										10
61	Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>)		x			1		x	x	x	x
62	Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)		40			300	x	x	x		
63	Slender-billed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>)		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
64	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)		x						x		
65	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)										
a	<i>Heuglin's Gull</i> (<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>)		x			x	x	x	x		x
b	<i>Steppe Gull</i> (<i>Larus fuscus barabensis</i>)		x								x
66	Caspian Gull (<i>Larus cachinnans</i>)		x								

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67	Pallas's Gull (<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>)		8								
68	Sooty Gull (<i>Ichthyaetus hemprichii</i>)		x			x	x	x	x		x
69	Brown Noddy (<i>Anous stolidus</i>)						1				
70	Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)					x		2	x		x
71	Greater Crested Tern (<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>)		x			x	x	x	x		
72	Lesser Crested Tern (<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>)						1		x		
73	Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>)		2						x		
74	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)		3				x	1	x		
75	Gull-billed Tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)								x		x
76	Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>)							1			
77	Whiskered Tern (<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>)		x			x		100	x	1	
78	White-winged Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)							2			
Procellariiformes - Petrels, albatroses, shearwaters											
79	Persian Shearwater (<i>Puffinus persicus</i>)						10		3		
Ciconiiformes - Storks											
80	Abdim's Stork (<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>)					27			x		
81	White Stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)					1	2		x	1	
82	African Openbill (<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>)								1		
Suliformes - Cormorants, Anhingas, Boobies											
83	Masked Booby (<i>Sula dactylatra</i>)						2				
84	Brown Bobby (<i>Sula leucogaster</i>)								x		
85	Great Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)		x		1	x			1		x
86	Socotra Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>)					x			x		
Pelecaniformes - Pelicans, Herons, Ibises & similar											
87	African Sacred Ibis (<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>)								1		
88	Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)		1			x	x	x		2	
89	Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)					x		x	x	x	x
90	Striated Heron (<i>Butorides striata</i>)		x				1				1

[illegible]

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Strigiformes - Owls										
117	Pallid Scops Owl (<i>Otus brucei</i>)		1	H							
118	Arabian Scops Owl (<i>Otus pamela</i>)					x		H			
119	Desert Owl (<i>Strix hadorami</i>)								1		
120	Western Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)					x					
121	Arabian Eagle Owl (<i>Bubo milesis</i>)							2			
	Bucerotiformes - Hoopoe										
122	Eurasian Hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i>)		2		1	x					
	Coraciiformes - Rollers, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers										
123	Indian Roller (<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>)		x	x	x						
124	Common Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)		1								1
125	Arabian Bee-eater (<i>Merops cyanophrys</i>)		1						2		
	Falconiformes - Falcons										
126	Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Psittaciformes - Parrots and allies										
127	Alexandrine Parakeet (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>)		x								
128	Rose-ringed Parakeet (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>)		x				1			x	x
	Passeriformes - Perching & song birds										
129	Black-crowned Tchagra (<i>Tchagra senegalensis</i>)					1			2		
130	Brown Shrike (<i>Lanius cristatus</i>)								1		
131	Isabelline Shrike (<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>)		2		x			1	x		
132	Turkestan Shrike (<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>)					x					
133	Great Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius excubitor aucheri</i>)				x					x	
134	Arabian Babbler (<i>Turdoides squamiceps</i>)				11						
135	African Paradise Flycatcher (<i>Tersiphone viridis</i>)					x	x		x		
136	Grey Hypocolius (<i>Hypocolius ampelinus</i>)							4			
137	White-eared Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>)		x	x	x						x
138	Red-vented Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>)		x								

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
139	White-spectacled Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>)		1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
140	House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>)		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
141	Brown-necked Raven (<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>)			2	x					x	x
142	Fan-tailed Raven (<i>Corvus rhidipurus</i>)					x	x	x	x	x	
143	Greater Hoopoe-Lark (<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>)					H					
144	Desert Lark (<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>)			4				x			
145	Greater Short-toed Lark (<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>)					1					
146	Black-crowned Sparrow-lark (<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>)					x				x	
147	Singing Bush Lark (<i>Mirafr cantillans</i>)								x	x	
148	Crested Lark (<i>Galerida cristata</i>)		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
149	Pale Crag Martin (<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>)		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
150	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)		1		1	x	x			x	
151	Graceful Prinia (<i>Prinia gracilis</i>)					x		H	x	x	
152	Delicate Prinia (<i>Prinia lepida</i>)		x	x							
153	Common Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)				x						x
154	Plain Leaf Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus neglectus</i>)			x							
155	Wood Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>)				1						
156	Clamorous Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>)		2					x		x	x
157	Asian Desert Warbler (<i>Curruca nana</i>)										2
158	Lesser Whitethroat (<i>Curruca curruca</i>)			x	x	x		1	x	1	x
159	Eastern Orphean Warbler (<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>)			x							
160	Arabian Warbler (<i>Curruca leucomelaena</i>)					x	1				
161	Ménétriés's Warbler (<i>Curruca mystacea</i>)				1						
162	Abyssinian White-eye (<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>)					x	x	x	x		
163	Common Myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
164	Tristram's Starling (<i>Onychognathus tristamii</i>)					x	x	x	x	x	x
165	Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)					H					
166	Blue Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola solitarius</i>)			1			x				

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
167	Bluethroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>)		1					1			
168	Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)			2	x						1
169	Siberian Stonechat (<i>Saxicola maurus</i>)									1	
170	Isabelline Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>)				x	x	x		x	x	
171	Desert Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>)		1		x				1	x	x
172	Pied Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>)				x					1	
173	Blackstart (<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>)					x	x	x	x	x	x
174	Arabian Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe lugentoides</i>)						x		1		
175	Hume's Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe albonigra</i>)			x							
176	Hooded Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe monacha</i>)							1			
177	Persian Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe chrysopygia</i>)			x							
178	Red-breasted Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula parva</i>)					1					1
179	Nile Valley Sunbird (<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>)							x			
180	Palestine Sunbird (<i>Cinnyris osea</i>)					x	x		x		
181	Arabian Sunbird (<i>Cinnyris hellmayri</i>)					x			x	x	x
182	Purple Sunbird (<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>)		x	x	x						
183	House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
184	Rüppell's Weaver (<i>Ploceus galbula</i>)					x	x	x	x		
185	African Silverbill (<i>Euodice cantans</i>)					x	x	x	x		
186	Indian Silverbill (<i>Euodice malabarica</i>)		x	x	x						
187	Citrine Wagtail (<i>Motacilla citreola</i>)		x			x		1			
188	White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)		x		x	x		x	x	x	x
189	Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)			2		x	1	1	x		
190	Yellow Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)									x	x
191	Tawny Pipit (<i>Anthus campestris</i>)				x	x				x	
192	Long-billed Pipit (<i>Anthus similis</i>)						1	1	x		
193	Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)						10				
194	Yemen Serin (<i>Crithagra menachensis</i>)						x				

		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
195	Arabian Grosbeak (<i>Rhynchostruthus percivali</i>)								1		
196	Striolated Bunting (<i>Emberiza striolata</i>)			1							
197	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>)					x	x	x	x		
	Additional species										
198	Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)		1								
199	Black-winged Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>)		2		1						
200	Caspian Plover (<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>)		1								
201	Common Whitethroat (<i>Curruca communis icterops</i>)					1					
202	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (<i>Merops persicus</i>)					x	x	x			
203	Blyth's Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>)					1					
204	Upcher's Warbler (<i>Iduna languida</i>)					1			1		
205	Eurasian Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)					x				1	
206	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)						x				
207	Spur-winged Plover (<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>)								3		
208	Little Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>)									1	
209	Lanner Falcon (<i>Falco biarmicus</i>)									1	
210	Whinchat (<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>)									1	
211	Scaly-breasted Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)									3	
212	Little Owl (<i>Athene noctua</i>)										2
	Mammals										
1	Honey Badger (<i>Mellivora capensis</i>)										
2	Arabian Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes arabica</i>)										
3	Common Dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>)										
	Reptiles										
1	Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)						x				

[illegible]

